1	2	3	4
20	Rajasthan	45	4
21	Tamil Nadu	176	13
22	Uttar Pradesh	40	11
23	Uttaranchal	5	-
24	West Bengal	38	12
25	Chhattisgarh	-	1
	TOTAL :	868	117

Protecting interests of handloom workers in U.P.

1322. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what has been done by Government during the last three years to protect the interests of handloom workers of Uttar Pradesh and the details of schemes launched;

(b) what has been done by Government for the education of children of weavers living in very poor conditions;

(c) what Government proposes to do to provide better market access and raw material to handloom workers and remove the menace of middlemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India is implementing the following schemes during the XI Five Year Plan to promote the Handloom Sector in all over the country including Uttar Pradesh State:-

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

The developmental and welfare schemes being implemented by the Government of India are comprehensive in nature and cover the interest of handloom weavers of the entire country including Uttar Pradesh. In the 11th Plan, out of the two mega clusters sanctioned with an outlay of Rs 70.00 crores each, one of them is Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, the other being Sibsagar in Assam. Also, as a special measure for the welfare of handloom weavers, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme is being implemented with components of (i) Health Insurance Scheme and (ii) Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana which provide medical facilities and life insurance cover for the weavers in the country including state of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, a scholarship of Rs.300/- per quarter per child is available to students studying in standard IX to XII for a maximum period of four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered under the scheme.

(c) and (d) Mill Gate Price Scheme provides all types of yarn at Mill Gate Price to the eligible handloom weavers so as to facilitate regular supply of basic raw materials to the handloom sector and helps utilize the full employment potential of the sector including the weavers of Uttar Pradesh. With a view to develop and promote marketing channels in domestic as well as export market, Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme is under implementation which provides opportunities to the handloom weavers of the country including the weavers of Uttar Pradesh to showcase and market their products in various trade events organized in India and abroad. Besides, in order to boost the sale of handloom products, assistance under the Marketing Incentive Component of integrated Handlooms Development Scheme is given to the eligible handloom agencies @ 10% of the average sales turnover of the concerned handloom organization for the last three years. This assistance can be used by the handloom organizations for offering rebate to customers, for creating infrastructure to improve production and productivity or for any other activity aimed at attracting consumers and to gear up the overall sales of handloom organizations.

Adverse effect of cheap used garments

1323. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic textile industry has suffered heavy losses due to import of cheap used garments from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has resulted in huge loss of foreign exchange also; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to impose restriction on the import of used garments from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The import of used garments affects the domestic garment industry. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary issues are also involved. Therefore, the Government has imposed restrictions on the import of used garments by bringing them under the 'Restricted list of Imports' *vide* Notification No. 7/2004-09 dated the 27th October, 2004. The import of used garments has declined sharply from Rs.278.62 crore in 2003-2004 to Rs.74.69 crore in 2007-08.

Revival of textile mills of Kanpur

1324. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there are four mills in Kanpur city owned by British India Corporation (BIC), Elgin-1, Elgin-2, Kanpur Textile and Lal Imli waiting for revival;